

## TO TELL THE TRUTH

Will the real leader please stand up?

Which one shall it be? Surely it must be the woman whose writings and speeches have challenged and inspired women to look at themselves, see their strengths, and mobilize those strengths to confront that power structure which is male, white supremacist.

Or is it the woman who quietly gives support to women who are struggling to be strong by sharing her skills, teaching what she knows, encouraging improvisation in thinking and doing, being there when "the man" threatens?

Or, wait, is it the woman who is constantly prodding and pushing other women with ideas, who's a few steps ahead, whose charisma can move women forward, whose dedication is single-minded, allowing nothing that is extraneous to interfere?

The panel of experts is puzzled. Noises and slamming are heard offstage. A delegation appears wearing brass knuckles and carrying whips. Three step forward.

"We are the real leaders," they chant. "These others are phonies."

"What are your credentials?" asks the panel.

"We are not wimpy," they chant.

"We allow no deviation from our ideas," they chant.

"We only associate with women who think like we do," they chant.

"We beat up the fools who disagree with us," they chant.

"We take what does not belong to us because it is yours," they chant.

"We divide and conquer," they chant.

"We intimidate, debilitate, exacerbate, militate, rhetoricate," they chant.

"We class-ify, de-class-ify, un-class-ify, re-class-ify," they chant.

"Follow us, follow us, follow us," they chant.

The panel stands up and salutes. The three "phony" leaders remain seated. They are whipped to the floor and beaten with brass knuckles.

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